GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015
Launch of Foreign Satellites
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Paswan Shri Chirag;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Antirx corporation has recently signed a deal with Google"s Sky Box imaging to launch various macro satellites;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the amount of revenue earned/likely to be earned from launching of foreign satellites; and
(d) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as low cost satellite launching destination in the world and if so, the countries with which India has signed MoU"s for launch of satellites?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)&(b) Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has signed a Launch Services Agreement (LSA) during April 2014 with M/s.Skybox Imaging Inc., USA for launching one micro-satellite named SkySat-Gen2-1 weighing 110 kg. This satellite will be launched as one of the co-passengers on board ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) during 2016.
It is learnt that Skybox Imaging, during August 2014, has entered into an agreement to be acquired by Google; and the name, as it stands on date, is 'Skybox imaging + Google'.

(c) Antrix has so far earned a revenue of USD 17.17 Million and Euros 79.98 Million by launching 51 satellites from 20 countries. Further, Antrix is likely to earn a revenue of USD 4.54 Million and Euros 63.91 Million by launching 25 satellites from 7 countries during 2015-2017.

(d) India, with its 'work-horse' Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which has a track record of 30 successive successful flights and proven capability to carry out different types of missions [viz., Low-Earth Orbit - low inclination to sun-synchronous; Sub-Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO); Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)] and also with ability to launch multiple satellites in a single mission, has emerged as one of the most competitive and reliable launch service providers in the world.
Currently, Antrix has signed Launch Service Agreements (LSA) with Companies/ Space Agencies from 7 countries viz., Algeria, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and USA, for launching 25 more satellites.

****